

**Least Yellow Underwing *Noctua interjecta* Hb. ssp. *caliginosa* (Schawerda) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Dumfries and Galloway**

The Least Yellow Underwing is widespread and local over much of England and Wales, with fewer records in the north of England (Heath, J. and Emmet, A.M. 1979. *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, vol 9, p. 163), and only widely scattered singletons, probably vagrants, recorded in Scotland. The Scottish Insect Record Index gives the following in chronological order:

VC 89	<i>Perth Soc. Nat. Sci.</i> <b>5</b> : 1914: 121
Aviemore	<i>Ent. Rec.</i> <b>63</b> : 12 (1951)
Invernessshire	<i>Ent. Rec.</i> <b>66</b> : 63 (1954)
Badenoch	<i>Ent. Rec.</i> <b>80</b> : 37 (1968)
Shetland	<i>Ent. Rec.</i> <b>109</b> : 274 (1997)
St Cyrus	<i>Ent. Rec.</i> <b>114</b> : 145 (2002)

While light trapping along the Galloway coast (on our own or as part of the Dumfries and Galloway Group of Entomological Recorders) we have found this species at a few locations only, indicating that it is probably a widespread resident but rather local and uncommon. In Wigtownshire: Barsalloch Point, at O. S. grid reference NX 346412 (1 on 25 July 1999). In Kirkcudbrightshire: Brock's Hole, Rascarrel, NX 800475 (1 on 12 August 2000); Mersehead RSPB Reserve, NX 934552 (1 on 20 July 2003); Castle Muir Point, NX 797472 (2 on 6 August 2003); Barlocco Bay, NX 794471 (2 on 6 August 2003); Dundrennan MOD Range, NX 709439 (1 on 22 August 2003). It has also been recorded in Dumfriesshire: a single near the Brow Well, at NY 081674, on 11 August 1996 (D. Patterson and J. Randell, *pers. com.*). All the above sites are coastal, and the habitats mainly consist of low lying open grassland with some scrub, and most often adjacent to shingle or vegetated dune systems.

With thanks to Keith Bland for supplying records from the Scottish Insect Record Index and for comments on an earlier draft of this note. Peter Norman brought the single Dumfriesshire record to our attention.— RICHARD & BARBARA MEARNs, Connansknowe, Kirkton, Dumfries DG1 1SX.

